

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USING TOKENS  
TO CONDUCT FILE SHARING TRANSACTIONS  
BETWEEN HANDHELDS AND A WEB SERVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5           A method and system supporting web file sharing transactions via a networked handheld computer system. In a system having a server that automatically detects when new versions of currently used applications are made available for a networked handheld computer system, a method is described for allowing one handheld computer system to facilitate the transfer of

10 a file to another handheld computer system using the server. On the server, each registered handheld has account information indicating the applications (and versions) that it supports. As part of the file sharing transaction, using a token, a sending handheld computer system updates the account information of a receiving handheld to indicate that a download is required the next time the

15 receiving handheld is networked with the server. A new file name may be recorded in the account information, or, a new version of an existing file name may be updated. The new information is then automatically downloaded to the receiving handheld during its next synchronization with the server. Security options on the receiver are available that restrict which handhelds have

20 authority to send files to the receiving handheld. Synchronization can be performed with a host computer system, or directly between the server and the handhelds. The shared file may be any information, e.g., an application, data, images, electronic currency, etc.